



Page 1

**AZAD Board of Directors  
Jan 1, '08 - Dec 31, '09**

President Jim Oster  
Vice President Tom Buell  
Secretary Larry Forestal  
Treasurer Larry Devenny

North Arizona Reps:  
928E - Vacant  
928W - Pamela Maneri

Phoenix Reps:  
623 - Mark King  
480 - Rebecca Himes  
602 - Tom Posedly

Tucson Rep:  
520 - Carol Harter

Arizona as Whole:  
Deborah Stone

3 Board Members-at-Large:  
(to be appointed by the Board  
of Directors)

**IN THIS ISSUE**

AZAD Conference at Tucson  
AZ Deaf Festival  
Apache ASL Trails Deaf Seniors  
President's Message  
EDITORIAL  
Deaf Architect  
Jr. NAD Pageant - ASDB  
Ava Crowell  
Legitimacy of ASL  
Regional IV NAD Conference  
Special Announcements

# AZ HANDWIND

Editor - Larry Forestal  
Contact: LForestal@aol.com

## Arizona Deaf Festival Successful with over 850 in attendance AZAD Committed to By-Laws Revision and Human Rights Oster and Buell Reelected with New Leaders on Board

On September 28-30, 2007 at Tucson, the biennial conference of AZAD in conjunction with the Arizona Deaf Festival was a BIG HIT. It attracted at least 850 people from the state of Arizona as well as various states ranging from California to Maryland. CSDVRS was our major sponsor of the festival and conference; all planned events went well beyond reasonable expectations.

During the Sunday business session 29 active members and 4 non-members attended. The members were in general agreement with proposed By-laws amendments but they recommended in the best interests of AZAD that the By-laws revision proposal be further reviewed in writing subject to final approval made by the membership at next special meeting in January 2007. New officers and Board members will be also sworn in there along with necessary action on By-laws ratification, membership dues and organizational affiliation.

## Deaf seniors may get high-tech digs

**Katie Nelson**  
*The Arizona Republic*

A housing community for deaf and hard-of-hearing seniors is being planned for Tempe and the \$25 million project would be among the largest of its kind in the country.

The project would provide 75 apartments and 50 owner-occupied condominiums for people age 55 and older.

But Apache ASL Trails, which still must be voted on by the Tempe City Council, is intended to be more than just housing. Support services would be woven in, positioning the site to become a statewide epicenter for the deaf senior community. "Especially for deaf seniors, whose friends may pass, isolation is a terrible problem," said Carmen Green, deputy director of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. "Regular senior centers can't always meet their needs because, most likely, no one else there knows how to sign, so it creates many lonely barriers for those deaf individuals."

Safely housing and serving deaf seniors takes creativity. The main form of communication inside Apache ASL Trails would be American Sign Language, augmented by design and technology. Architects would use special interior and structural design to eliminate sight barriers.

There also are design and technology add-ons such as color-coded strobe lights that alert residents to ringing doorbells and telephones. Strobes also signal weather warnings, fires and other emergency announcements. Apache ASL Trails' asset manager, Judy Leiterman, estimates those extras tack on about \$8,000 per housing unit. Community support for the \$25 million Tempe concept already is under way.

(see page 4 - DEAF SENIORS)

**Happy Trails**

Proudly sponsored by  
GUAA Valley of the Sun Chapter  
No business meeting! It will be  
on November 4.

Cave Creek Regional Park - \$6.00  
per vehicle for park entry fee

Directions: From central Phoenix,  
take I-17 north to Carefree Hwy  
(SR 74). Exit Carefree Hwy. and  
travel east to 32nd St. (7 miles).  
Turn north on 32nd St. to the  
Cave Creek Regional Park  
entrance.

**Saturday, October 20, 2007  
10 AM - 6 PM**

**Wear Western Attire**  
Games, Hiking, Horse Trail Rides,  
Nearby Playground, Prizes  
Group Picnic Area -  
Ramada #2 & Ramada #3

Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM  
Sloppy Joe - fried chicken -  
cole slaw - baked beans -  
potato salad - dessert  
One beverage is free!  
extra beverages are available  
for purchase!!!

\$6.00 per member of Phoenix  
or Tucson GUAA chapter/  
\$10.00 per non-member/  
\$4.00 per kid (5 - 12 years old)

Count me in! Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check: Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ Kids \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
R.S.V.P. by October 15, 2007 -  
If no R.S.V.P, please pay \$3.00  
more at the door!!!

Please make checks payable to:  
Valley of the Sun Chapter  
For more information or  
questions, e-mail:  
Gfrancini11@aol.com  
bbass2@cox.net  
guaa@cox.net

**President's Message - Surprising  
Turnout at Festival and Conference  
at Tucson**

During the weekend of September 28th  
through 30<sup>th</sup>, Tucson held its first Deaf  
Festival in conjunction with AZAD's  
Biennial Conference at Riverpark Inn.  
What a pleasant surprise! The head  
count of people who attended the  
Festival was over 800 people came to  
help celebrate Deaf Awareness. Now,  
was that impressive or what? The AZAD  
conference held on Sunday morning,  
September 30<sup>th</sup> and concluded by 2:30  
PM with by-laws proposals tabled until  
next special general meeting for  
ratification. After lunch an election for  
next term officers and Board members  
took place. You can see who will be our  
leaders on page 1 above. During lunch  
recess Astrid Goodstein, NAD Regional IV  
representative, presented Tom Posedly  
a prestigious Golden Hand Award from  
NAD for his many years of unselfish  
contribution of time and efforts for the  
betterment of our Arizona Deaf  
Community. Also, Tom was recently  
awarded the most prestigious Arizona  
Architect of the Year Award from his  
fellow architects and peers. This award  
indicated a strong testimony to Tom's  
contributions. We are quite proud to  
have such an amazing deaf Arizonan.  
The oath of new AZAD Board members  
will be held at next special general  
meeting where we will ratify By-laws  
amendments some time in January  
2008. I would be remiss if I did not take  
this opportunity to express my thanks  
and gratitude for all of you who have  
volunteered to make the weekend so  
successful. I also want to thank those  
who have reelected me as your  
President for another term. I appreciate  
your faith in me and the newly elected  
Board. We look forward to strong  
community support and involvement.  
We are as good as the membership of  
our organization. One far reaching  
effort of AZAD is the partnership with  
CSDVRS which stands for Community  
Service of the Deaf Video Relay Service.  
The Board previously decided to venture  
in new partnership with CSDVRS. AZAD  
intends to foster social and community  
involvement through joint sponsorship  
and improved relay service. After all,  
this is YOUR VOICE, Future and Vision  
and possibly VRS.

**EDITORIAL**



**Who are qualified to teach American  
Sign Language (ASL)?**

This issue has often come up in various  
local deaf communities. Based on  
current linguistic research, ASL is a  
visual language with its own grammar  
and semantics. Research related to  
linguistic aspects of ASL, Deaf History,  
and Deaf Culture has become a highly  
recognized and respected industry.  
Colleges and universities have  
established academic programs to offer  
Deaf Studies, Linguistics of ASL, or  
Teaching ASL as a major area of study  
on undergraduate and graduate levels.

According to the American Sign  
Language Teachers Association  
(ASLTA),

- 1) ASL is primarily used by deaf and  
hard of hearing Americans and  
Canadians.
- 2) ASL is also used by hearing children  
of deaf parents, hearing siblings, and  
relatives of the deaf.
- 3) Hearing adults, who have become  
deaf or deafened, are learning ASL  
from other deaf individuals or friends.
- 4) For learning a second or third  
language, hearing students taking  
sequential ASL courses in public  
schools, colleges and universities are  
rapidly growing across the nation.

ASLTA, New York, Utah and other  
states presently issue ASL teacher  
certification and/or license. Evidently,  
teaching ASL has become a very  
important business. Since colleges and  
universities currently offer ASL  
courses; deaf and hearing individuals  
who are capable of teaching ASL  
effectively are very strongly  
encouraged to pursue ASL teacher  
certification or license to the  
maximum extent.

Historically, ASL belongs to deaf  
Americans. Pragmatically, teaching ASL  
should be in the hands of those  
teachers who are native and/or fluent  
ASL users. Similarly, teaching Spanish  
should go to those teachers who read,  
speak, and write Spanish fluently.

**All Chapter Members of  
GUAA Valley of the Sun**

Semi-annual Fall General and  
Election Meeting

**Sunday, November 4  
2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Phoenix Community Center  
for the Deaf  
1545 West Osborn Rd Phoenix

Refreshments will be served. Instead of having the meeting at the picnic, it is being held separately at a different time so that will enable the officers to do their business in a proper environment.

The agenda will cover the usual items, ending with an election for officers and auditors. Most of them will have fulfilled a term of three years, according to by-laws. They may be elected again for another term if they accept the nominations.

Three members of the nominating committee, Al Couthen, Norbert Enos, and Judy Mohan will roam around and take your nomination. You are free to put your name or someone's name and specific office on their list. You may contact those on the committee by email or pager.

Couthen - [acouthen01@cox.net](mailto:acouthen01@cox.net);  
Enos - [NAEnos@aol.com](mailto:NAEnos@aol.com);  
Mohan - [AZJudy@sprint.blackberry.com](mailto:AZJudy@sprint.blackberry.com)

Announced by Barbara Bass,  
President, GUAA Valley of the  
Sun Chapter  
[barbbass2@cox.net](mailto:barbbass2@cox.net)

**PRESS RELEASE - PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
September 21, 2007**



Photo from left to  
Right: Thomas J. Posedly, AIA and Charles  
Albanese FAIA, Dean of College of Architectur  
and Landscape Architecture at University of  
Arizona.

Photo Credit: Penny Posedly, FAIA

**DEAF ARCHITECT GETS THE MEDAL**

September 8th the members of Arizona American Institute of Architects celebrat "AIA Arizona 2007 Design Awards Gala" with their spouses, relatives, clients and friends at Phoenix Museum of Art. Out of seven groups of awards, the Arizona Architect's Medal was the most honorabl

Two architects received the medals - Thomas J. Posedly, AIA congenitally deaf architect and Wellington "Duke" Reiter, AIA Dean of Architecture at Arizona State University.

Chuck Albanese introduced Tom, "I have known Tom Posedly since 1967 when I arrived in Tucson as a young faculty member of the University of Arizona's College of Architecture. I stand here with deepest respect for, and how this person accomplished all that he has."

Like many of Arizona's architects, Tom grew up in Arizona, attended an Arizona university and became licensed here. Tor had his own firm, added partners, taught at the university and high school, and has projects in Arizona, Hawaii, Guam and Colorado. But like few of architects, he was not supposed to be an architect.

Teachers at Tucson's residential school for the Deaf knew the only jobs open to him would be a teacher, carpenter or printer at a newspaper facility. They were stunned when he transferred to a public high school—Amphitheater High School- for his senior year. That is where he was exposed to Architectural drafting class

**(see next column - POSEDLY)**

**(From preceding column - POSEDLY)**

work. His success so inspired the late Dr. Ralph Hoag, Superintendent of Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind that he went on to establish two nation-wide programs that changed many lives— the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf which offered architectural design and drafting as well as many other technical fields.

Since Tom Posedly ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 200 in his graduating class at Tucson's Amphitheater High School in 1959, he received a two-year scholarship to the University of Arizona. Back then; there were no American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, no notetakers, no telecommunications devices, no relay services for Tom to make phone calls, no fax, and no computers for e-mails. Nevertheless, Tom graduated on time.

Tom was President of Southern Arizona Chapter American Institute of Architects before moving to Hawaii in 1987. For over 35 years he served on many city and state boards and commissions. His Quick Coloring seminars were popular at AIA conferences in Arizona, Utah, Hawaii and Nevada.

Tom's belief in giving back to community shows as he chaired boards for Deaf services agencies in Tucson, Phoenix and Hawaii; Arizona Council for the Deaf; and for the present, Arizona Deaf Senior Citizens Coalition, which is building Apache ASL Trails, a 125-unit retirement complex for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-blind in Tempe with Cardinal Capital Management of Wisconsin. To show the beauty and flexibility of American Sign Language, Tom has performed in Arizona and Hawaii community theaters for 35 years so far, in many venues. Dean Albanese ended the introduction at the Gala, "Arizona Architect Thomas J. Posedly, AIA has shown the nation that deaf people can do anything - except hear!"

On November 2-4, 2007, President Ostei and Secretary Forestal will represent AZAD at the NAD Region IV Conference hosted by the Utah Association of the Deaf. All meetings and social activities will take place at the Sanderson Center

**Arizona School for the Deaf  
Junior NAD Chapter**

Proudly Presents  
Mr. & Miss 2007 Jr. NAD Pageant  
Friday, Oct. 19th at 7 p.m.  
Berger Performing Arts Center -  
ASDB  
\$5.00 admission (tickets will be  
sold at the door)  
Proceeds will go to 2007 Junior  
NAD National Conference  
Contact: Ava Crowell  
ASL Specialist, ASDB  
P.O. Box 85000  
Tucson, AZ 85754  
ACrowell@asdb.state.az.us

**WHY NOT TO JOIN AZAD  
NOW?**

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS  
SOON AS YOU CAN...**

**Regular \$24 biennial  
membership dues**

**Senior \$20 biennial  
membership dues**

**Please note that membership  
dues are prorated as time  
passes from one biennial  
AZAD conference to next  
conference.**

**Please mail your check or  
money order (payable to  
AZAD) to:**

**AZAD Treasurer  
1545 W. Osborn Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85015  
BIG THANKS!!!**

**LINKS:**

[www.azadinc.org](http://www.azadinc.org)

[www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org)

[www.deafarizona.org](http://www.deafarizona.org)

[www.acdh.org](http://www.acdh.org)

[www.padinc.org](http://www.padinc.org)

**2008 NAD Conference  
New Orleans, LA**

**July 7-11, 2008**

**[www.nad.org/conference](http://www.nad.org/conference)**

**DEAF SENIORS (from page 1)**

Leaders from the Arizona Deaf Senior Citizens Coalition, the Valley Center of the Deaf and Tempe have pledged their backing. The Arizona Community Foundation donated \$150,000 to help fund the project. The project also won the right to use federal low-income housing tax credits to make the apartments more affordable. Cardinal Capital Management Inc., a Wisconsin development company, intends to have residents living in the development as early as spring 2009. Just more than a dozen states have similar facilities. The plans are part of a burst of redevelopment along Tempe's Apache Boulevard segment of the new light-rail line. The site is just east of Apache Boulevard's intersection with the Loop 101, giving it easy access to public transit. The governor-appointed commission serves the estimated 500,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing people who live in Arizona. One out of three seniors experiences hearing loss, the agency estimates.

\*\*\*\*

**AVA CROWELL RECEIVES RECOGNITION**

Ava Crowell of Tucson, who is presently an ASL Specialist at the ASDB, has been recognized by Hamilton Relay for her active involvement with deaf community activities. She is a champion for the Arizona Deaf community based on the fact that she has long advocated for movie theaters to provide "open captioned" movies. Not long ago she arranged a special Bernard Bragg performance, with proceeds going to the NAD and Jr. NAD. Adding together, Ava is co-chairs the upcoming Jr. NAD National Conference which will be held at the ASDB in October 2007. Recently, she helped make the Arizona Deaf Festival a great success last month. Ava is a very compassionate lady who enjoys assisting Deaf immigrants with their new lives in the United States and helps them learn ASL. Her leadership, contributions and tremendous energy are to be highly commended.

**Legitimacy of American Sign Language  
By Larry Forestal**

During the era of Oralism in the United States from the 1880s to 1960s, thousands of deaf students were innocent victims of the perplexing philosophy and incomprehensible oral teaching methods promoted by Alexander Graham Bell and other zealots. Their careers were derailed and discarded. Up to the 1960-'70s, there was no such recognition of sign language or American Sign Language (ASL) as a language. ASL was generally rejected and frowned upon by contemporary educators of the deaf, especially those hearing professionals who were incapable of signing proficiently. Some CODA professionals feared losses of the friendship of other colleagues and their jobs. I was raised by my deaf parents with two deaf sisters growing up with me on the Jersey shore. My parents never mentioned anything about ASL and Deaf Culture to me during my childhood years. At the New Jersey School for the Deaf my report cards unquestionably indicated that academic classroom teachers based my intelligence on solely speaking and lip-reading abilities of deaf students. As a late bloomer I started to read and write English. In due course, I entered Gallaudet University, thanks to constant reading and regular exposure to deaf adults on the nearby boardwalk and at home in Asbury Park, NJ. After my graduation from Gallaudet University, I taught deaf students at the Texas and Nebraska Schools for the Deaf. My professional colleagues advised me that ASL was really my first language and English was my second language. I had the opportunity to study and digest Dr. William C. Stokoe's early linguistic research. I commend and respect his courageous fight for the acceptance of ASL as a legitimate language in the midst of long academic controversy at Gallaudet University. ASL is one of academically approved languages in higher education. ASL and Deaf Culture are interwoven just like salt and pepper are inseparable. Deaf Americans would have faced a very difficult struggle without the legitimacy of ASL.